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Boston Equal Suffrage Association for Good...

Economic facts for practical people

[Boston]

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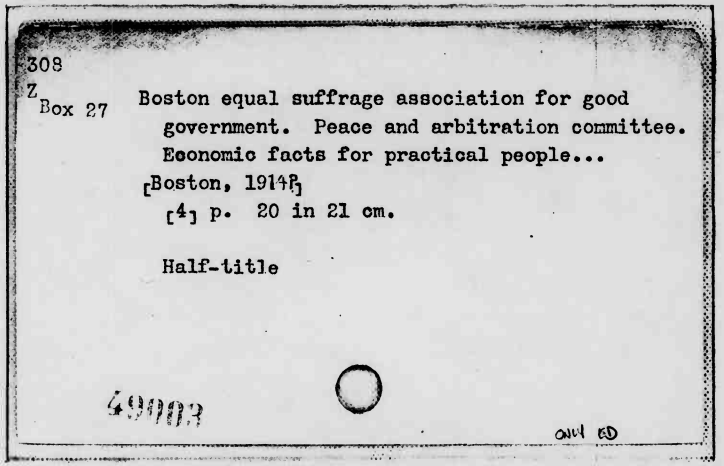

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Boston equal suffrage association for good government

Economic Facts for Practical People

The new explosive, Maximite, can instantly destroy any battleship that floats.

"Were half the power that fills the world
with terror, ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻
Were half the wealth bestowed on camps
and courts, ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻
Given to redeem the human mind from
error, ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻
There were no need of arsenals or forts."

A first-class battleship costs as much as all the ninety-four buildings of Harvard University.

1. A million dollar-bills packed solidly like leaves in a book make a pile 275 feet high. One thousand million dollars, the price which Europe annually pays for armaments in time of peace, equal a pile of dollar-bills over 52 miles high. This expenditure for the supposed prevention of war represents one thousand million days' labor at one dollar a day, and this, be it remembered, every year to enable each nation merely to hold its own.

2. A second pile of dollar-bills over 52 miles high represents the annual payment for interest and other costs of past wars.

3. To these inconceivably large amounts must be added the earnings of the millions of able-bodied men in army and navy who are withdrawn from productive industries and are supported by taxed peoples.

4. Since 1850 the population of the world has doubled: its indebtedness, chiefly for war purposes, has quadrupled. It was eight billions fifty years ago, it is thirty-two billions to-day.

The year 1900 added nearly another thousand millions to the war debt of the world. This about equals the annual cost of boots, shoes, and bread in the United States.

5. Our War Department, even with our small army, just previous to the Cuban war, cost over $50,000,000 annually, while the total annual cost of public schools for both races in all the sixteen Southern States was less than $32,000,000.

We paid for pensions the year before the Cuban war over $147,000,000, about seven times the total income of all our colleges, and about equal to the annual cost of the German army.

6. Armies take the very flower of youth. If they could consume the weaklings, idiots, and criminals instead of the strongest workmen, perhaps something might be said for the specious argument that "war keeps down surplus population."

Military equipments must be new. One may use an old sewing-machine or reaper, but not a gun that is out of date. A new invention makes old junk of millions of costly, burnished arms.

7. The increase of standing armies and navies, accomplishing no result but increased burdens on the people, is inevitable unless the practical men of the civilized world insist upon a rational settlement of international difficulties. Is it not time for rational beings, who have abandoned tattooing, eating raw flesh, and all other savage practices except the savage practice of settling difficulties by war, to take for their motto, not the outworn charge, "In time of peace prepare for war," but, "In time of temporary peace, prepare for permanent peace"?

Before the Pharaohs, men invented a rational way of settling quarrels. They saw that a disinterested third person could settle a quarrel more justly than two angry disputants whose logic was brute force. The invention of a judge promoted civilization more than the invention of a wheel.

In 1789, enlarging on this invention, we established a Supreme Court which settled difficulties between separate states at the same period in which the steam-engine came into use. This court has contributed more than steam power to our prosperity. Since 1800, 200 international difficulties have been arbitrated by special, temporary courts, and each nation kept its pledge to abide by the decision of these courts.

In 1899, delegates of 26 nations at The Hague signed conventions relating to war and arbitration; and in 1901 the Permanent International Court of Arbitration was there established. 21 of the most important of the 26 nations have ratified the conventions, and appointed 67 judges of this court, from which five were in 1902 selected to try the first case,—one between the United States and Mexico. In 1902, at the Pan-American Congress in Mexico, all the states in Central and South America asked for admittance to The Hague Court. Ten of them went further and signed a treaty to settle their mutual difficulties by arbitration. Spain followed with similar treaties with nine Spanish-speaking nations on this continent. Chile and Argentina, long hostile to each other, have led the movement to gradual disarmament. The most turbulent sections of Christendom have thus gone furthest in securing prosperity, and have made a "merger" of far greater moment than Morgan ever effected. Forty nations of two hemispheres have no longer excuse for war with each other, whatever may still justify civil war or war with nations who are outside the International Court. This fact, and Bloch's scientific demonstration that, under modern conditions, war is now futile between equal foes, and must result in nothing but bankruptcy of both, renders the present notable increase of

militarism grotesquely stupid. A strong, rich nation, lord of a continent, needs least of all to burden itself with outgrown, Old World methods. The military class, like the hand workers who broke machinery when it was first used, naturally oppose whatever takes away their occupation. A college diploma is no guarantee that you know anything of these practical questions,— far more important for your outfit as voter, teacher, editor, or parent than dead languages or higher mathematics. The Twentieth Century will add to the International Court an International Congress. Gradual disarmament will accompany this, and finally a small international army will enforce international decrees, while militia alone will secure order within each nation. Let all who desire this cease talking sceptically, assume that their neighbors desire the same end, and work for as stupendous progress in the near future as has surprised us in the recent past.

WHAT YOU CAN DO.

1. You can learn these facts by heart, and pass them along.

2. You can write to the Secretary of State at Washington, and urge him to initiate measures towards establishing treaties with Italy, France, England, the South American States, and any countries that seem inclined to unite with us, for the reference of all international difficulties to The Hague Tribunal.

3. You can try to persuade any club to which you belong which has a lecture course to devote one lecture every year to the economic evils of great standing armies.

4. You can subscribe $1 for the *Advocate of Peace*, 31 Beacon Street, Boston, the strong American organ of internationalism. You can read, and see that your public library contains, Trueblood's "The Federation of the World" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., $1); Charles Sumner's "Addresses on War"; Jean de Bloch's "The Future of War," the gist of his great six-volume work translated in one volume (each 50 cents, cost price, Ginn & Co., Boston).

5. You can send for these leaflets at 25 cents a hundred, or any sums from ten cents upward for various pamphlets that bear on these questions, to Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead, 20 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., Chairman of Peace and Arbitration Committee of the Boston Equal Suffrage Association for Good Government.

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